

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

Issue: July 2008

MEPAG Meeting #19: September 18, 2008 in the Pasadena, California area, which will follow the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) Landing Site Workshop #3, September 15-17, 2008)

MEPAG Meeting #20: Early 2009 on the East Coast

Notes from the MEPAG Chair

On June 23 and 24 the Planetary Science Subcommittee (PSS) of the NASA Advisory Council met at the Goddard Space Flight Center. In addition to the full suite of topics relevant to the PSS, there were a number of presentations relevant to the MEP. Jim Green presented an update on the planetary science program of NASA, and Michael Meyer reported on the Mars Exploration Program. I provided an update on MEPAG activities since the last PSS meeting and plans for the next period of time and Chip Shearer reported on CAPTEM activities that included significant content relevant to Mars Sample Return and the workshop on MSR in April. And Lisa May from NASA HQ reported on the IMARS activities leading up to the international workshop to be held on July 9, 10 in Paris. The PSS was also pleased to have an update from Peter Smith on the progress of Phoenix! The full agenda for the PSS and the presentations can be found at <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/pss/agenda/200806/>. We will be following through on the many topics touched on at this meeting, and look forward to discussing these with you at the next MEPAG meeting in September.

John F. Mustard, MEPAG Chair

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
7/01	Early registration— 8th European Workshop on Astrobiology EANA '08 (September 1-3, 2008)
7/02	Abstracts— Workshop on Early Solar System Impact Bombardment (September 15-17, 2008)
8/01	DPS abstracts due
8/15	Preregistration— European Planetary Science Congress (Sept. 21-26)
8/21	Abstracts— 3rd International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere (November 10-13, 2008)
9/01	Fall AGU abstracts due
9/01	Indication of interest – GIS for Planetary Mappers (Oct. 1-2)
9/19	Abstracts – 11th Mars Crater Consortium (Sept. 29-30)

Mars Science News

Debbie Calderon has left JPL to pursue other activities. Debbie had supported every MEPAG meeting from the 1st to the present. A short note from her follows.

Dear members of the Mars community,

I wanted to let you know that I have recently left JPL to work in the natural (alternative) health field as a Certified Hypnotherapist. Shortly after 9-11-2001, I recognized that people have a need for sharing humanity, whether it is through comforting words during a disturbing time in their lives, or day-to-day lighthearted humor that lets them know they matter as human beings. After my initial “test case” of using hypnosis to help someone overcome severe pain and stress caused by physical injuries proved successful, that was my “sign” that I should continue with this work.

Having had a past career in the travel and hospitality industry, I was delighted to have found my niche at JPL as the hospitality person for the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG), and co-editor of the *Mars and Lunar Science Calendar and Community Announcements*, as I enjoyed bringing people together through email communications, and meeting coordination. It has been a privilege and an honor to work with such a fine group of world-class scientists and engineers, *who are also nice people!* I consider myself very fortunate to have been involved when key milestone events occurred in Mars exploration, and to have shared in the excitement of these successes!

Best regards,

Debbie Calderón

(debbie_calderon@yahoo.com)

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>Third Quarter, 2008</i>		
	July 9–10, 2008 Paris, France	ESA/CNES International Mars Sample Return Conference http://www.congrex.nl/08A16/
	July 13-18, 2008 Vancouver, BC, CANADA	Goldschmidt 2008 Conference Theme 2, Session #02b: Surface Geochemistry and Processes on Mars http://www.goldschmidt2008.org/index (Submitted by Nick Tosca, Harvard University)
	July 13–20, 2008 Montreal, Quebec CANADA	37th COSPAR Scientific Assembly http://www.cospar-assembly.org/
	July 14–18, 2008 Baltimore, Maryland	10th Asteroids, Comets and Meteors Conference Contact: Margaret Simon, Margaret.simon@jhuapl.edu http://acm2008.jhuapl.edu/

	July 20-23, 2008 Moffett Field, California	NLSI Lunar Science Conference NASA Ames Conference Center http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/nlsc2008/ (Submitted by Will Marshall, NASA Ames Research Center)
	July 28–August 1, 2008 Matsue, JAPAN	71st Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society http://www.metsoc2008.jp/
	August 6–14, 2008 Oslo, NORWAY	The 33rd International Geological Congress A disciplinary symposium in Comparative Planetology, with a special session PIP-02 The Geology of Mars and Venus results. Other sessions in Impact Structures. http://www.33igc.org/ (Submitted by Jouko Raitala, University of Oulu, FINLAND)
	August 11–16, 2008 Arlington, Virginia	Sixth International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering One of the themes is "Application of Geotechnical Engineering in Outer Space, including Granular Material Behavior in Lunar and Martian Environments; Extraterrestrial Mining, Construction, and Transportation Infrastructure Development". http://www.6icchge2008.org
	August 17–21, 2008 Vredefort Dome, SOUTH AFRICA	Conference on Large Meteorite Impacts and Planetary Evolution IV Sunwa River Lodge http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lmi2008/lmi2008.2nd.shtml
	August 24–29, 2008 Florence, ITALY	XV International Conference on the Origin of Life (ISSOL '08) Sponsor: The International Society for the Study of the Origin of Life http://www.dbag.unifi.it/issol2008/
	September 1-3, 2008 Neuchatel, SWITZERLAND	8th European Workshop on Astrobiology EANA '08 European Astrobiology Network Association, ESA, Space Exploration Institute. Held at Space Exploration Institute. http://www.space-x.eu/EANA08/
	September 15-17, 2008 Houston, Texas	Workshop on the Early Solar System Impact Bombardment Lunar and Planetary Institute One of the legacies of the Apollo program is the concept of late heavy bombardment or a lunar cataclysm that may have resurfaced the Moon and thermally metamorphosed its crust. Several recent studies have continued to test that concept and explore the implications any bombardment may have for our understanding of lunar evolution and early evolution of life on Earth. Final announcement and workshop program will be posted by August 6, 2008. http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/bombardment2008/

	September 15-17, 2008 Monrovia, California	<p>MSL (Mars Science Laboratory) 3rd Landing Site Workshop Doubletree Hotel, Monrovia. The process of selecting the MSL landing site continued at the second workshop held in October 2007 when the number of sites remaining under discussion was narrowed to six. The goal of the third workshop will be to produce a summary of the characteristics, strengths, and weaknesses of each of these six sites. A future workshop is planned that would further narrow the list of sites under consideration to a recommended landing site. Information on the MSL landing site selection process and sites discussed at the first two workshops along with supporting image data can be found at the websites supporting MSL landing site section activities: http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/landingsites/ http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/msl All members of the Mars scientific community are encouraged to participate. Contact Matt Golombek golombek@jpl.nasa.gov</p>
	September 18, 2008 Monrovia, California	<p>MEPAG (Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group) Meeting #19 Contact Jack Mustard, john_mustard@brown.edu</p>
	September 21-26, 2008 Münster, GERMANY	<p>European Planetary Science Congress (EPSC) University Münster. Deadline for preregistration: August 15, 2008 http://meetings.copernicus.org/epsc2008/ Contact Harald Hiesinger: hiesinger@uni-muenster.de</p>
	September 25-28, 2008 Grants, New Mexico	<p>Caves of Mars Field Meeting: Lavatubes and their extraterrestrial analog value for Mars, and possibly other bodies Sponsored by the Association of Mars Explorers, a non-formal group who have either had a mission on Mars, or who have worked extensively in analog environments. September 25-26: Field meeting on site, El Malpais National Monument, Grants, NM. September 27-28: Chaco Canyon field trip Contact: Penny Boston, pboston@nmt.edu Caves of Mars Project: http://www.highmars.org/nia/</p>
	September 29-30, 2008 Flagstaff, Arizona	<p>11th Mars Crater Consortium Meeting US Geological Survey Deadline for abstracts: September 19, 2008 Contact Nadine Barlow, Nadine.Barlow@nau.edu http://www.marscraterconsortium.nau.edu/</p>
	September 29–October 3, 2008 Glasgow, SCOTLAND	<p>59th International Astronautical Congress This event includes a Space Exploration Symposium the whole week, with sessions on astronomy, the Moon, Mars, advanced concepts, and solar system exploration) Deadline for early registration with discount: August 1, 2008 http://www.iafastro.com/</p>
	October 1-2, 2008 Flagstaff, Arizona	<p>GIS for Planetary Mappers Hands-on training workshop held at USGS. Seating limited to 24 people. Helpful if participants could bring a laptop computer running Windows, but it is not required. Users with OSX or Linux laptops can also be accommodated. Grad students and post-docs are encouraged to attend. A DVD containing presentation materials and software tools will be provided. Deadline for indication of interest: September 1, 2008 Contact: Trent Hare, thare@usgs.gov http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/pigwad/docs/ Submitted by Nadine Barlow, Northern Arizona University</p>

	October 5–9, 2008 Houston, Texas	Geological Society of America national meeting Deadline for pre-registration: August 2008 http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	October 10–15, 2008 Ithaca, New York	40th Annual Meeting of the DPS Deadline for abstracts: August 1, 2008 Deadline for early preregistration: September 1, 2008 http://www.aas.org/~dps/meetings.html
	October 20–24, 2008 Moab, Utah	Second Workshop on Mars Valley Networks Sponsors: The Smithsonian Institution and University of Virginia Valley networks represent the best evidence that water once flowed across the surface of ancient Mars. This workshop will provide a forum for discussing the extraction of watershed information from digital elevation models of the martian surface, age-dating valley network systems, and other quantitative measurements of valley networks. A field trip to look at sapping features in the Colorado Plateau is also planned. Contact nasmworkshop@si.edu , or Bob Craddock (craddockb@si.edu) (Submitted by Bob Craddock, Smithsonian Institution, workshop convener)
	October 21–23, 2008 Paris, FRANCE	Workshop on Martian Phyllosilicates: Recorders of Aqueous Processes? CNES Objectives: understanding the Martian surface environment in phyllosilicate-bearing localities. This includes identifying where and what kinds of phyllosilicates have been identified, how these relate to our knowledge from terrestrial sites and experimental results, and what we can expect to achieve with upcoming missions. Implications for habitability (e.g., what can MSL and ExoMars tell us?) Contact: Jean-Pierre Bibring, bibring@ias.fr http://www.ias.u-psud.fr/Mars_Phyllosilicates
	October 27–31, 2008 Florida	10th ILEWG International Conference on Exploration and Utilization of the Moon (ICEUM10/ILC2008) (Dates TBC near LRO launch) http://sci.esa.int/ilewg
	October 28–31, 2008 Cape Canaveral, Florida	Joint Annual Meeting of LEAG-ICEUM-SRR Meeting is planned to coincide with the October 28, 2008 launch of the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO – including LCROSS) from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. To be added to the mailing list to receive electronic reminders or special announcements via e-mail, please submit the electronic Indication of Intent form by May 30, 2008. Contact: Elizabeth Wagganer, LPI (281) 486-2164 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/leagilewg2008
	November 10–13, 2008 Williamsburg, Virginia	3rd International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere: Modeling and Observations Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Conference Center Sponsor: The Lunar and Planetary Institute Deadline for abstract submission: August 21, 2008 Contacts: Joel S. Levine joel.s.levine@nasa.gov and Francois Forget Francois.Forget@lmd.jussieu.fr http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/modeling2008/
	November 2008	End of MRO Primary Science Phase; transition to Relay Phase
	November 18, 2008	Start of Mars solar conjunction
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2008</i>		

	December 15–19, 2008 San Francisco, California	Fall meeting, AGU Abstracts due September 1, 2008 www.agu.org/meetings
	December 24, 2008	End of Mars solar conjunction
	December 26, 2008	Mars equinox (beginning of northern fall)
<i>2009</i>		
 	Week of January 12-16 2009	Mars Express Science Working Team Meeting (SWT) week of 12-16 January 2009 (dates and location to be announced) - Contact Agustin Chicarro (Agustin.Chicarro@esa.int) or Olivier Witasse (owitasse@rssd.esa.int)
	Winter/Spring 2009 East Coast	MEPAG (Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group) Meeting #20
	February 2009	VEXAG (Venus Exploration Analysis Group) Meeting – Date and location to be announced – Contact Ellen Stofan, ellen@proxemy.com
	March 2009 Houston, Texas	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference Deadline for abstracts: TBD
	April 2009 Noordwijk, THE NETHERLANDS	International Conference on Comparative Planetology: Venus-Earth-Mars at ESTEC Contact: Augustin Chicarro, Augustin.Chicarro@esa.int
	April 2009	Fourth MSL Landing Site workshop
	July 7-12, 2009 Melbourne, Australia	7th International Conference on Geomorphology Ancient Landscapes – Modern Perspectives Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre There will be dedicated sessions on Planetary Geomorphology and a field trip to examine analog landscapes in South Australia. http://www.geomorphology2009.com/ (Submitted by Mary Bourke, Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, Arizona)
	July 13–18, 2009 Nancy, FRANCE	72nd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Marc Chaussidon, Guy Libourel or Bernard Marty http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2009	2009 Mars Launch Period Opens
	October 4–9, 2009 San Juan, Puerto Rico	41st Annual Meeting DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 18–21, 2009 Portland, Oregon	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 15–19, 2009 San Francisco, California	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2010</i>		
	March 2010 Houston, Texas	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	July 18–25, 2010 Bremen, GERMANY	38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly

	July 25 or August 1, 2010 Toronto, Ontario CANADA	73rd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Dr. G. Srinivasan http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2010	42nd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 31– November 3, 2010 Denver, Colorado	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 13–17, 2010 San Francisco, California	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2011</i>		
	July 2011 Pasadena, California	8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology
	August 2011 Greenwich ENGLAND, UK	74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Gretchen Benedix http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2011 Nice, FRANCE	43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 9–12, 2011 Minneapolis, Minnesota	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 12–16, 2011 San Francisco, California	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2012</i>		
	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Trevor Ireland http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	The 34th International Geological Congress http://www.33igc.org/

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings:

Rosh Hashanah	9/30/2008	9/19/2009	9/9/2010	9/29/2011	9/17/2012
Yom Kippur	10/9/2008	9/28/2009	9/18/2010	10/8/2011	9/26/2012
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Good Friday		4/10/2009	4/2/2010	4/22/2011	4/6/2012
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/27/2008	11/26/2009	11/25/2010	11/24/2011	11/22/2012
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/13/2008	10/12/2009	10/11/2010	10/10/2011	10/8/2012

EDITORS

Joyce Pulliam	Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov	818-393-0444
Charles Budney	Charles.J.Budney@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-3981
David Beaty	David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-7968

Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Joyce Pulliam, Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-393-0444.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.